

08 Staff, volunteers and students procedures

08.3 Deployment of volunteers and parent/carers helpers

Volunteers and parent/carers helpers are always under the supervision of a permanent member of staff at Cottontails Preschool They are not included in staff ratios

- All volunteers must complete safer recruitment checks as required by the EYFS prior to starting at the setting
- The setting manager/senior supervisor ensures that volunteers and parent/carers helpers are deployed to assist permanent staff and directed to their work area by senior staff.
- Volunteers and parent helpers assist staff in ensuring that the equipment in their designated area is used appropriately and that it is left tidy at the end of the session.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers give additional support for busy areas or to track or observe children.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers inform colleagues where they are going if they leave the room at any time.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers do not have unsupervised access to children; they do not take them into a separate room for an activity or toileting and do not take them off premises.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers are deployed in addition to two members of staff in the garden/outdoor area when in use.
- The setting manager/senior practitioner can direct volunteers and parent/carers helpers to join those outside if the numbers of children warrant additional numbers of staff available.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers always focus their attention to children.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers do not spend time in social conversation with colleagues while they are with children.
- Volunteers and parent/carers helpers allow time for colleagues to engage in 'sustained shared interaction' with children and do not interrupt activities led by colleagues.
- Sufficient volunteers and parent/carers helpers are available to support staff at story and other circle times.